

Remarks

Claim Amendments

Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the clean-in-place system has a flow rate sensor in the fluid return conduit as described at page 18, lines 18-30 of the specification. Claims 2 and 6 have been amended in view of the amendments to claim 1.

103(a) Rejections

Claims 1 and 3-6 have been rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,651,329 in view of U.S. Patent Nos. 5,425,385, 6,089,242, 6,323,033 or U.S. Patent Application No. 2004/0007255. Claim 2 has been rejected over this art and in view of U.S. Patent Nos. 2,558,628 and 6,341,612. Item 4 of the Action also lists other pertinent art.

The Applicant's representative has reviewed the art cited against the claims and the art listed in Item 4 of the Office Action. None of the cited references shows a flow sensor and a physical property sensor located in a fluid return conduit between the return valve of the tank and an outlet of the apparatus being cleaned as recited in claim 1. In this regard, the recitation of the flow sensor in claim 1 meets the requirement in the Office Action that a distinguishing structural feature be provided in claim 1.

As noted at page 18, lines 18-30 in the specification, the detection of a flow rate and an interface between an acidic cleaning composition and the rinse water in the sensor device of the present application can provide control signals to the programmable logic controller to close the acid return valve in a calculated period of time and to open the drain valve in another calculated period of time such that minimal

rinse water enters the acid tank and minimal acidic cleaning composition enters the drain. Thus, the use of a flow sensor and a physical property sensor in a fluid return conduit between the return valve of the tank and an outlet of the apparatus being cleaned provides advantages over the prior art systems.

Thus, all of the limitations of amended claim 1 (and claims 2-6 that depend thereon) are not shown in the art of record.

Conclusion

It is submitted that the entire application has been placed in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

A sheet is attached for the one month extension. No additional fees are believed to be needed for this amendment. However, if additional fees are needed, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 17-0055.

Respectfully submitted,

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